

Message Text

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ACTION SY-05

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 MMO-01

PER-01 A-01 PRS-01 USIA-06 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

SCCT-01 OC-05 CCO-00 FBO-02 /063 W

----- 110167

R 301045Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY PARAMARIBO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2567

INFO AMEMBASSY CARACAS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 1 OF 2 PARAMARIBO 0349

CARACAS FOR RSO

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: ASEC

SUBJ: SECURITY AFFORDED PUBLIC ACCESS AREAS

REF : PARAMARIBO 0258

1. FOLLOWING ITS INDEPENDENCE IN NOVEMBER 1965, SURINAM HAS REMAINED A COUNTRY OF POLITICAL STABILILTY, CLOSELY ALIGNED TO ITS FORMER PARENT, THE NETHERLANDS, AND THE EMBASSY HAS NOT CHANGED IN REGARDS TO THE IMAGE WHICH IT PRESENTS. THE AMERICAN STAFF HAS BEEN INCREASED BY ONE (AN AMERICAN SECRETARY) FOR A TOTAL OF SIX, AND THERE IS A POSSIBILITY THAT IT MAY AGAIN INCREASE TO SEVEN IF A USIS OFFICER IS ASSIGNED.

REGARDLESS, THE AMERICAN ROLE WITHIN SURINAM IS "LOW KEY" AND THE U.S. PRESENCE IS INCONSPICUOUS. THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS HAVE BEEN AND ARE SUCH THAT THERE IS NO ANTI-AMERICAN SENTIMENT AND, SHOULD ONE PARTICULAR COUNTRY BE SINGLED OUT, IT IS NOT LIKELY TO BE THE U.S. THE LARGEST SINGLE EMPLOYER IS SURALCO THE SURINAM SUBSIDIARY OF ALCOA, WHICH MINES AND EXPORTS BAUXITE, THE PRIMARY RESOURCE OF THE COUNTRY. IT HAS HAD, IN THE RECENT PAST, LABOR TROUBLES AND, DESPITE ITS DIRECT TIES TO THE US, THESE PROBLEMS HAVE BEEN LIMITED TO THE MANAGEMENT-

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LABOR FIELD AND NOT RELATED TO POLITICS OR THE U.S. THE ETHNIC

DIVISIONS OF THE POPULATION PROVIDE TENSIONS AT TIMES, BUT, AGAIN, THESE ARE INTERNAL AFFAIRS AND DO NOT DIRECTLY INVOLVE THE U.S. OR THE EMBASSY. THE ASSUMED POSSIBLE DANGER TO AMERICANS IS CONFINED TO THE OFF-CHANCE OCCURENCE THAT ASSIGNED PERSONNEL OR FAMILY MEMBERS MAY BE INADVERTENTLY INVOLVED IN THE ABOVE DISTURBANCES, THUS EXPOSED TO PHYSICAL DANGER. THE INCIDENCE OF TERRORIST ACTIVITY FROM WITHIN THE COUNTRY IS NOT TOTALLY DISCOUNTED, BUT IT IS CONSIDERED TO BE MINIMAL. EXTERNAL TERRORISM IS NOT WITHOUT THE REALM OF POSSIBILITY IN THE REPRESENTATIVES OF A TERRORIST GROUP (I.E., PLO, ETC.) COULD EASILY GET INTO THE COUNTRY WITH ARMS AND/OR MUNITIONS TO ATTACK THE EMBASSY OR ITS PERSONNEL.

2. THE EMBASSY OCCUPIES THE SAME SPACES PREVIOUSLY UTILIZED AS THE CONSULATE GENERAL WITH THE CONSULAR AND USIS ACTIVITIES CONFINED TO THE FIFTH FLOOR OF THE 8-STORY BANK BUILDING AND THE AMBASSADOR, AMERICAN SECRETARY, POLITICAL/ECONOMIC OFFICER, C&R AND ADMIN OFFICER LOCATED ON THE SIXTH FLOOR. BANK OFFICES AND SNACK BAR ON THE SEVENTH AND EIGHTH FLOORS PRECLUDE SEALING OFF THE STAIRWELL FROM ABOVE, OR SECURING THE ELEVATORS. A BANK-EMPLOYED GUARD IS ON DUTY AT THE GROUND FLOOR ELEVATOR AND STAIR ENTRANCE DURING THE HOURS THAT THE BUILDING IS OPEN. AFTER HOURS, THE FLOORS ARE SECURED BY A YALE LOCK IN DOUBLE GLASS, SWINGING DOORS AND AN OVERHEAD ROLLING IRON GRILL, WHICH IS MANUALLY LOWERED AND LOCKED INSIDE THE DOUBLE DOORS. A CATWALK SURROUNDS THE BUILDING AT EACH FLOOR AND A LOCKED GLASS DOOR PROVIDES ACCESS TO IT AND AN EMERGENCY LADDER.

3. WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE C&R VAULTED AREA, BOTH FLOORS ARE VIRTUALLY OPEN TO THE PUBLIC DURING DUTY HOURS AND NO SECURITY BARRIERS ARE PRESENT. TO PROVIDE THE NECESSARY SECURITY TO THE AREAS, PERSONNEL, AND CLASSIFIED MATERIALS, THE FOLLOWING RECOMMENDATIONS ARE MADE:

A. THE POST CONTINUE IN ITS EFFORTS TO OBTAIN A QUALIFIED CONTRACT DUTY-HOUR GUARD, TO BE PLACED IN THE RECEPTION AREA OF THE SIXTH FLOOR. THE CHANGE IN LOCATION FROM THE ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION IS MADE DUE TO THE MOVEMENT OF THE POLITICAL/ECONOMIC OFFICER TO THE SIXTH FLOOR WHICH NOW IS OCCUPIED BY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FIVE OF THE SIX AMERICANS AT POST.

B. AN EXAMINATION OF THE CURRENTLY INSTALLED SPRING LOADED (IN THE UP POSITION) AND MANUALLY LOCKED IRON GRILL DISCLOSED THAT IT HAS A MOTOR AND CONTROLS WHICH HAVE NEVER BEEN CONNECTED. POST INTENDS TO DISCUSS THIS ASPECT WITH THE LOCAL FIRM INVOLVED AND, AT THE SAME TIME, EXPLORE THE COSTS OF REPLACEMENT OF THE GRILLS WITH A SOLID ROLL-DOWN DOOR

AND A FAST ACTUATING MOTOR. ADDITIONAL KEY CONTROLLED LOCKS
AND RELEASE FROM THE RECEPTIONIST POSITION WITH BE ALSO
REQUIRED, AS WILL A CHANGE IN THE SWING OF THE GLASS
ENTRY DOORS.

C. THE POST WILL RELOCATE THE EXISTING RECEPTIONIST FURNITURE
ON THE SIXTH FLOOR TO A POSITION DIRECTLY IN FRONT OF AND
FACING THE GLASS DOORS AND MAKE OTHER FURNITURE MOVES TO
LIMIT PHYSICAL AND VISUAL TO THE AREA AND TO THE C&R VAULT
DOOR.

D. THE 14 SMALL CLEAR GLASS WINDOWS AT THE TOP OF THE INNER
DIVIDING WALLS ON THE SIXTH FLOOR BE SUITABLY COVERED TO PRE-
VENT VISUAL ACCESS INTO THE INNER OFFICES.

E. THE AMERICAN SECRETARY BE THE FOCAL POINT FOR ALL
PERSONNEL AND VISITORS TO THE AMBASSADOR'S OFFICE.

F. AFTER PROPER INSTRUCTIONS, THE EMBASSY DRIVERS AND
VEHICLES BE EQUIPPED WITH NON-LETHAL MACE, TO BE REQUESTED
FROM RSO, CARACAS.

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ACTION SY-05

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 MMO-01

PER-01 A-01 PRS-01 USIA-06 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

SCCT-01 OC-05 CCO-00 FBO-02 /063 W

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R 301045Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY PARAMARIBO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2568

INFO AMEMBASSY CARACAS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 2 OF 2 PARAMARIBO 0349

CARACAS FOR RSO

G. THE POST EXPLORE, WITH THE BUILDING OWNERS, THE POSSI-

BILITIES OF MINOR PHYSICAL CHANGES IN THE REMOVABLE GRILLS AT THE CATWALK ESCAPE LADDER TO FACILITATE ITS USE IN EMERGENCY SITUATIONS.

4. A SURVEY OF THE AMBASSADOR'S RESIDENCE AND INDIVIDUAL HOMES WAS CONDUCTED AND SEPARATE SECURITY RECOMMENDATIONS WERE MADE TO THE POST. IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT AN ADDITIONAL SURVEY BE CONDUCTED DURING THE NEXT TECHNICAL INSPECTION TO EXPLORE THE FEASIBILITY OF THE USE OF SONIC ALARMS AT THE RESIDENCE AND OTHER SUITABLE AREAS.

5. THE POST WILL OBTAIN COST ESTIMATES FOR THE ABOVE RECOMMENDATIONS, AS REQUIRED, TO FORWARD TO THE DEPARTMENT, AND WILL INITIATE THOSE WHICH IT IS ABLE TO DO IMMEDIATELY.

6. THE ABOVE REPRESENTS THE RESULTS OF A SURVEY DONE AT POST BY RSO, SANTO DOMINGO, IN COMPLIANCE WITH STATE 210312. ZURHELLEN

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